

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable terminal in an information distribution system using a local server accessible through a local radio network and a subscription server accessible through a public network, portable terminal comprising:

a local radio network interface configured to access the local server through the local radio network;

a public network interface configured to access the subscription server through the public network;

a local server access request unit configured to send an access request for a local information provided by the local server, to the local server through the local radio network, along with a terminal ID for identifying the

portable terminal; and

a membership subscription request unit configured to send a server access membership subscription request through the public network to an address of the subscription server described in a server access membership subscription guidance for urging the portable terminal to carry out a membership subscription procedure which is returned from the local server when the access request is rejected by the local server.

2. The portable terminal of claim 1, wherein the membership subscription request unit sends the server access membership subscription request along with a local server ID attached to the server access membership subscription guidance.

3. The portable terminal of claim 1, further comprising: a tentative password memory unit configured to store a tentative password with a limited valid period which is given from the subscription server in response to the

server access membership subscription request;

wherein the local server access request unit sends another access request for the local information provided by the local server, along with the tentative password stored in the tentative password memory unit, after receiving the tentative password from the subscription server in response to the server access membership subscription request.

4. The portable terminal of claim 1, further comprising:
an information processing unit configured to process the local information received from the local server in response to the access request.

5. A local server in an information distribution system using a portable terminal accessible to the local server through a local radio network and a subscription server accessible through a public network, the local server comprising:

a local radio network interface configured to be accessed from the portable terminal through the local radio network;

a public network interface configured to carry out communications with the subscription server through the public network;

a local information storage configured to store a local information;

a local information access request receiving unit configured to receive an access request for the local information stored in the local information storage, along with a terminal ID for identifying the portable terminal, from the portable terminal through the local radio network;

a membership database configured to register in advance terminal IDs of those portable terminals which have server access membership;

a membership checking unit configured to check whether

the terminal ID received along with the access request is registered in the membership database or not;

a membership subscription guidance sending unit configured to send a server access membership subscription guidance for urging the portable terminal to carry out a membership subscription procedure, to the portable terminal through the local radio network, when the terminal ID received along with the access request is not registered in the membership database; and

a membership database updating unit configured to receive a new membership information from the subscription server through the public network and update the membership database according to the new membership information.

6. The local server of claim 5, wherein the membership subscription guidance sending unit sends the server access membership subscription guidance along with an address of the subscription server for carrying out a membership subscription procedure.

7. The local server of claim 5, wherein the membership subscription guidance sending unit sends the server access membership subscription guidance along with a local server ID for identifying the local server on the public network.

8. The local server of claim 5, further comprising a local information sending unit configured to send the local information to the portable terminal through the local radio network in response to the access request when the terminal ID received along with the access request is registered in the membership database.

9. The local server of claim 5, further comprising:
a local information sending unit configured to send the local information to the portable terminal through the

- local radio network when the access request is received along with a tentative password with a limited valid period.

5 10. The local server of claim 9, wherein the membership database updating unit updates the membership database within the limited valid period of the tentative password.

11. The local server of claim 5, further comprising:

10 a membership subscription request relaying unit configured to receive a server access membership subscription request from the portable terminal through the local radio network, and forward the server access membership subscription request to the subscription server
15 through the public network.

12. A subscription server in an information distribution system using a portable terminal accessible to the subscription server through a public network and a local
20 server for providing a local information which is accessible through a local radio network, the subscription server comprising:

a public network interface configured to carry out communications with the portable terminal or the local
25 server through the public network;

a membership subscription request receiving unit configured to receive a server access membership subscription request for accessing the local server, from the portable terminal or the local server through the
30 public network;

a membership subscription procedure processing unit configured to carry out a membership subscription procedure in response to the server access membership subscription request; and

35 a notification unit configured to notify information

on the portable terminal to the local server through the public network when the server access membership subscription request is accepted by the membership subscription procedure.

13. The subscription server of claim 12, wherein the information distribution system uses a plurality of local servers, the membership subscription request receiving unit receives the server access membership subscription request along with a local server ID of one local server, that is returned from said one local server to the portable terminal along with a membership subscription guidance for urging the portable terminal to carry out the membership subscription procedure in response to the access request, and the notification unit notifies the information on the portable terminal to said one local server as identified by the local server ID.

14. The subscription server of claim 12, wherein the information distribution system uses a plurality of local servers, and the notification unit notifies the information on the portable terminal to the plurality of local servers.

15. The subscription server of claim 12, wherein the membership subscription procedure processing unit gives a tentative password with a limited valid period to the portable terminal in response to the server access membership subscription request.